

- Claims not readable (mouse polypeptides) on this elected species are Claims 26-28 and 39;
- Claims 22, 37, 55 and 56 are linking claims.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-17 without prejudice and add the following new claims:

18. (New) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to amino acids X_1 to X_2 as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 wherein X_1 is 1 or 39 and X_2 is 374 or 442, said isolated polypeptide being capable of binding a LDCAM polypeptide, a B7L-1 polypeptide, or both.

19. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 18, wherein X_2 is 374.

20. (New) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to amino acids X_1 to X_2 as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 wherein X_1 is 1 or 39 and X_2 is 374 or 442, said isolated polypeptide being capable of binding a LDCAM polypeptide, a B7L-1 polypeptide, or both.

21. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 20, wherein X_2 is 374.

22. (New) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polypeptide comprising amino acids X_1 to X_2 as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein X_1 is 1 or 39 and X_2 is 374 or 442;
- (b) a polypeptide comprising amino acids X_3 to X_4 as shown in SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein X_3 is 1 or 21 and X_4 is 356 or 423; and
- (c) a polypeptide comprising a fragment of amino acids X_1 to X_2 in (a) or X_3 to X_4 in (b),
said isolated polypeptide being capable of binding a LDCAM polypeptide, a B7L-1 polypeptide, or both.

23. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 22 comprising amino acids X₁ to X₂ as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a fragment of said amino acids, wherein X₁ is 1 or 39 and X₂ is 374 or 442.

24. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 23 wherein X₂ is 374.

25. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 23 wherein X₂ is 442.

26. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 22 comprising amino acids X₃ to X₄ as shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 or a fragment of said amino acids, wherein X₃ is 1 or 21 and X₄ is 356 or 423.

27. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 26 wherein X₄ is 356.

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28. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 26 wherein X₄ is 423.

29. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 23 that is soluble.

30. (New) A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 23.

31. (New) The fusion polypeptide according to Claim 30, wherein said fusion polypeptide comprises a Fc region and/or a peptide linker.

32. (New) An oligomer comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 23.

33. (New) The oligomer according to Claim 32 which is a dimer, a trimer or a tetramer.

34. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 23 and a suitable carrier.

35. (New) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid which is capable of hybridizing, under conditions of moderate stringency, to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, from positions 130 to 1137, said isolated polypeptide being capable of binding a LDCAM polypeptide, a B7L-1 polypeptide, or both.

36. (New) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid which is capable of hybridizing, under conditions of severe stringency, to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, from positions 130 to 1137, said isolated polypeptide being capable of binding a LDCAM polypeptide, a B7L-1 polypeptide, or both.

37. (New) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of: (a) a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 1; (b) a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 1, from positions 16 or 130 to 1137; (c) a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 3; (d) a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 3, from positions 1 or 62 to 1069; and (e) a nucleic acid that is degenerate, as a result of the genetic code, to any of (a) to (d), said isolated polypeptide being capable of binding a LDCAM polypeptide, a B7L-1 polypeptide, or both.

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38. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 37, wherein said amino acid sequence is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 1, from positions 16 or 130 to 1137, or, as a result of the genetic code, a nucleic acid degenerate thereto.

39. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 37, wherein said amino acid sequence is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 3, from positions 1 or 62 to 1069, or, as a result of the genetic code, a nucleic acid degenerate thereto.

40. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 38 which is soluble.

41. (New) A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 38.

42. (New) The fusion polypeptide according to Claim 41, wherein said fusion polypeptide comprises a Fc region and/or a peptide linker.

43. (New) An oligomer comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 38.

44. (New) The oligomer according to Claim 43 which is a dimer, a trimer or a tetramer.

45. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 38 and a suitable carrier.

46. (New) A polypeptide produced by a method comprising culturing a host cell transfected or transformed with a nucleic acid encoding said polypeptide under a condition such that said polypeptide is expressed from said nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid is capable of hybridizing, under conditions of moderate stringency, to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 1, from positions 130 to 1137, said polypeptide being capable of binding a LDCAM polypeptide, a B7L-1 polypeptide, or both.

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47. (New) The polypeptide according to Claim 46, wherein said method further comprises recovering said polypeptide.

48. (New) The polypeptide according to Claim 46, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, from positions 130 to 1137.

49. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 48 which is soluble.

50. (New) A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 48.

51. (New) The fusion polypeptide according to Claim 50, wherein said fusion polypeptide comprises a Fc region and/or a peptide linker.

52. (New) An oligomer comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 48.

53. (New) The oligomer according to Claim 52 which is a dimer, a trimer or a tetramer.

54. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 48 and a suitable carrier.

55. (New) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence variance of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 4, said variance comprising an amino acid change in said SEQ ID NO: and being selected from the group consisting of: an amino acid deletion, an amino acid insertion, an amino acid substitution, and any combination thereof, wherein said polypeptide is capable of binding a LDCAM polypeptide, a B7L-1 polypeptide, or both.

56. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 55, wherein said variance occurs between and including amino acids 1 or 39 to 374 of said SEQ ID NO: 2 or amino acids 1 or 21 to 356 of said SEQ ID NO: 4.

57. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 56, wherein said variance occurs between and including amino acids 1 or 39 to 374 of said SEQ ID NO: 2.

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58. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to Claim 57 which is soluble.

59. (New) A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 57.

60. (New) The fusion polypeptide according to Claim 59, wherein said fusion polypeptide comprises a Fc region and/or a peptide linker.

61. (New) An oligomer comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 57.

62. (New) The oligomer according to Claim 61 which is a dimer, a trimer or a tetramer.

63. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide according to Claim 57 and a suitable carrier.

REMARKS